

[Translation]

Persons below Pover Line

5161. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons living below poverty line in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of families brought above the poverty line by providing assistance to them;

(c) whether the funds earmarked for this purpose have been misutilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Planning Commission estimates number of people below the poverty line at National and State level on the basis of quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest estimates of poverty are based on the quinquennial survey held in 1987-88 (NSS 43rd Round). According to this, 18.37 million persons in Maharashtra lived below the poverty line in 1987-88.

(b) There is a three-pronged attack on poverty, i.e.

(i) acceleration of economic-growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset-building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Sampoorna Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the Educated Unemployment Youth. The entire effort at development and all the programmes have a combined affect on poverty alleviation. As a result, the incidence of poverty in Maharashtra has come down from 27.58 per cent in 1983-84 to 25.05 per cent in 1987-88.

(c) Some complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been received from some States/UTs including Maharashtra in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employments.

(d) The complaints are immediately forwarded to the concerned State Government for taking appropriate remedial action.

Accommodation to Journalists

5162. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the number of the Press Reporters who have been allotted quarters by the Government during the last five years;

(b) the period of waiting list for the Press Reporters; and

(c) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to solve the accommodation problem of Press Reporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) During last five years allotment to following 14 Press Reporters has been made :—

S.No.	Name	Address
1.	B.P. Shukla	B-14, Andrews Ganj Extn.
2.	C. Mishra	B-11, -do-
3.	D. Shukla	E-16, -do-
4.	N. Chakraborty	N-8, -do-
5.	P.K. Pushkarna	H-6, -do-
6.	R.R. Prabhu	A-11, -do-
7.	S.R. Kumar	C-11, -do-
8.	V. Sanghi	C-12, -do-
9.	Vijay Shankar	A-12, -do-
10.	V. Rajgopal	C-14, -do-
11.	Y.B. Mathur	B-15, -do-
12.	R.C. Pandit	D-6, Tilak Lane
13.	Vithal Bhai Patel	A-33, Nanakpura
14.	S. Jagran	J-4, Andrews Ganj Extn.

(b) No waiting list is maintained in respect of allotment to be made to Press Reporters. Allotments are made on the recommendation by the Screening Committee in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(c) A total of 120 Units are available for allotment in the Press Pool. There is no proposal to increase the Press Pool in view of shortage of accommodation in the General Pool.

Representation from Retired Persons

5163. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government from persons who retired prior to April 1, 1995 not before July, 1993 to extend the benefit retrospectively from July, 93 as decided in O.M. No. 7/2/93-P&PW (F) dated September 19, 1993 that the rate of DA will be added to pay for calculating gratuity equivalent to 20% of basic pay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Representations were received by the Government from persons who retired prior to April 1, 1995 for extending the benefit of O.M. dated October 19, 1993 retrospectively.

(b) The Government has, through that order, decided that in the case of Central Government employees who retire or die on or after 16.9.1993, twenty percent of the basic pay would be treated as dearness pay for reckoning emoluments for the purpose of retirement gratuity & death gratuity only under the C.C.S. (Pension) Rules, 1972.

Potable Water

5164. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide potable water on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed with regard to providing potable water to all in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Water supply being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to plan, execute and maintain water supply schemes.

However, to supplement State Government's efforts, a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for towns having population less than 20,000 (As per 1991 Census) has been introduced, with effect from March, 1994. Under this programme cost between the Central Government and the State Government is shared in the ratio of 1:1.

As per the 1991 Census there are 2151 such towns having a total population of 23.4 million. It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 2348 crores, would be required to cover all the towns. Against the above, the allocation made in the Central Sector for the Eighth Plan

is Rs. 50.00 crores. Upto 31.3.96, 204. Water Supply Schemes at a cost of Rs. 161.63 crores have been sanctioned. Since the progress of the scheme depends on generation of detailed project reports by the State Government, their technical viability and availability of resources, it is difficult to indicate the target date for the completion of the programme.

[English]

Construction of Bridges

5165. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal regarding construction of bridges on rivers in the country particularly in Orissa under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is at present no proposal in this Ministry regarding construction of bridges on rivers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation

5166. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'we won't go even if there is a bloodshed' appearing in the "Times of India" dated April 10, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Posts Reserved for OBC

5167. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of notified posts for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 for three services of Central